

## REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 15th June 1901.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1680. The *Indian Mirror*, after showing its gratification at finding the Englishman sharing its views in the matter of the The victory of China.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
30th May 1901.

"Victory of China," asks:—"What have, then, the Powers gained? Their soldiers have slain and murdered, and pillaged and burnt, and committed rape, but this was no gain, but a dead moral loss, by which Christian peoples became converted into worse than beasts of prey." It next refers to the spectacle of international collisions which have been so frequent of late and which have led the Powers to decide to withdraw their troops.

1681. The *Indian Mirror* discusses the prospects of England's "wiping out the incorrigible Boers." It finds that "there is The Boers.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
2nd June 1901.

no immediate hope of that consummation. Meanwhile the British tax-payers are as despairing as they are desperate and angry. They are tired of the make-believes which His Majesty's Ministers have confronted them with from time to time, and they have long since found out that they have been fooled successively by Roberts, Kitchener and Milner." It adds: "We cherish a settled belief in the might and Majesty of England. But we confess that we are not so very hopeful of the progress of the British cause in South Africa."

1682. The *Bengalee* publishes a letter signed by several Indians in the British Indian subjects in South Africa.

BENGALEE,  
8th June 1901

Transvaal complaining that the anti-Indian legislation which under the laxity of the Boer Government was very feebly enforced, is now being carried out with a rigour unknown before. The letter contains a copy of a telegraphic appeal submitted to the High Commissioner on the 25th of March, of which up to the date of the letter, April 20th, there had been no recognition. The writers notice with regret and misgiving the reference in the King's speech to the proposed "equality of the white races south of the Zambesi. Before the war it was equal rights for all civilized races in South Africa." If the change to "the whites" is deliberate, it suggests cause for grave anxiety.

Commenting on this letter the *Bengalee* points out that one of the justifications for the war, urged by Lord Lansdowne, was that the anti-Indian legislation of the Boer Government was in breach of the Pretoria Convention. Mr. Chamberlain, before the war, exerted himself to mitigate the rigour of the Boer laws against the Indians, and the time has now come for him to embody his kindly feelings in suitable deeds. He is now Lord of the Transvaal, and its laws will be such as he chooses to make them. This paper is afraid that the unequal treatment of races is being carried on with a view to conciliating the Boers, who, with their old fashioned Christianity, which treats the children of Ham as the legitimate slaves of mankind, would strongly resent any suggestions for the "equality of the Indians."

1683. The *Hindoo Patriot* also publishes the above-mentioned appeal.

*Ibid.* The *Patriot* is at a loss to know what difficulties stand in the way of the Government's conferring

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
4th June 1901.

on Indian subjects the privileges of British citizens, and appeals to the King, the British Ministry, the British Parliament and nation to redress their grievances.

1684. On the same subject, the *Bengalee* remarks that when war was declared in South Africa, one of the grounds of

*Ibid.* justification put forward by Ministers was that British Indian settlers were most cruelly ill-treated in the Transvaal. And not long ago it was said that England's mission in South Africa would be to secure "equal rights for all civilized races." Now, however, the tune is changed to "equality of all the white races." They blamed Kruger, says the *Bengalee*, in conclusion, for ill-treating British Indian subjects. Kruger may have had some excuse, but what excuse can they have who are subjects of the same sovereign as the British Indian victims?

BENGALEE,  
5th June 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
7th June 1901.

1685. "Some time ago," says the *Indian Mirror*, "when the pluck and self-sacrifice of Indian dooli-bearers and others British Indian subjects in South Africa. playing a subordinate part in the war in South Africa, formed the theme of the world's praise and admiration, it was the custom to refer to Indians as 'Sons of the Empire.' It may be remembered that Lord Lansdowne stated that one of the causes which led to the war was the anti-Indian policy of the Boer Government. Yet under the Boer Government many of the restrictions placed upon Indians remained a dead letter, while under British rule they have begun to be enforced in all their rigour. The *Mirror* is surprised that British Ministers should so far stultify themselves, and go back upon their word as to permit under the British flag, a state of things of which, during the Boer regime, they expressed holy horror."

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a) Police.

POWER AND GUARDIAN.  
2nd June 1901.

1686. *Power and Guardian* in an article on Police reform, says the duties of the Police can be summed up in five words—

Police reform.

prevention and detection of crime. For this the

writer thinks the present force is inadequate, but recognises that the present state of India's finances puts any large increase in the strength of the force out of the question.

The writer's idea is that the village police should be incorporated with the regular force and the chaukidar's pay fixed at a rate that will enable him to live on his pay, instead of, as now, passing his days in field labour, which must tire him and leave him unfit for the work of watching the village at night. His present pay is quite insufficient for his wants, and when a theft occurs in a village it may be safely concluded that the chaukidar has either had a hand in it, or been lying asleep in his own house.

An increase in the pay, which could be managed by a reduction in the number of chaukidars, would induce a better class of men to take up the appointments. The chaukidars should be drilled and armed, so that they will be better able to lead the villagers in resisting dacoits and gang robbers.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,  
4th June 1901.

1687. "Observer" of Bankipur, writing to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on the subject of the recent excise case in Dina-pore, asks why it took Inspector Campbell two years to devise the means by which the infringement of the excise rules was detected, and under what authority they laid the trap.

"In fact," writes the correspondent, "there is a deep laid plan at the bottom of the whole affair, and those behind the scene know too well that these excise prosecutions are nothing but the attempt of a rival party to discredit Mr. Charrier, the present lessee."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,  
5th June 1901.

Charges of extortion and oppression against Police officers of Jalpaiguri. 1688. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the proceedings in the High Court in a case in which their Lordships issued a rule calling upon the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri to show cause why a further enquiry should not be held into the charges under sections 384, 342, 161 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code, made by one Godula Das against Satis Chandra Ghose, Sub-Inspector of the Jalpaiguri thana, and Raghunandan Pande, a constable under him, and which were dismissed by the Deputy Magistrate of Jalpaiguri.

BENGALEE,  
6th June 1901.

1689. The *Bengalee* has another article on the subject of the inefficiency of Mr. Reily, and the officers of the Police in general. All the old arguments are repeated word for word; and the passage in the last Noakhali judgment where Mr. Geidt remarks that Mr. Reily took no steps to test the truth of the allegations, but simply relied on the information of his head-clerk, is quoted to show that it is doubtful if Mr. Reily is fit to be a District Superintendent of Police.

BENGALEE,  
6th June 1901.

1690. Apologising to its readers for again turning to this subject, the *Bengalee* thinks that Mr. Geidt's judgment throws a fierce side-light on the conduct of the Noakhali

police, and remarks that it was in an evil hour that the Bengal Government through the mouth of its Chief Secretary undertook to justify the retention of Osman Ali for 20 years in his native district.

The charges made by Mr. Geidt against Osman Ali and the head-constable amount to perjury, forgery, and the suppression of evidence in a legal proceeding in which the issue was one of life and death. Osman Ali had used all the influence of his position as a Police officer to save one relative and oblige another.

"No Police officer ought to be employed in his own or any other district for a period of 20 years, and no Government ought to undertake to defend a permanency of this kind."

The *Bengalee* awaits with interest the report of the Commission now enquiring into the Noakhali Police Administration.

**1691.** The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* delivers itself of another long article on the deposition of Mr. Reily. The *Noakhali* case, this time confining itself to comments on passages in Mr. Reily's evidence. Mr. Reily admitted that he was not very well acquainted with the colloquial Bengali of the Noakhali district, and the *Patrika*, turning this to a confession by a District Superintendent that he does not know Bengali, says, "So callous have the Government become in such matters that it does not see the absurdity of a District Superintendent investigating a case and asking his head-clerk to explain to him what the witnesses were telling him."

Idris told Mr. Reily that certain men had seen his father murdered. It was Mr. Reily's duty to follow up this clue by "saddling his horse and running" to the parties named. But the information did not move him in the least. The information was given on the 9th, but the depositions were not taken until the 12th.

Mr. Reily's deposition is full of "I think" and "I cannot say," which shows his heart was not in the investigation, but he was only playing a secondary part and dreamily watching the action of his subordinates.

The *Patrika* concludes with a hope that the Government will pardon Mr. Pennell, who succeeded in this case, where Mr. Reily, who has not been punished, failed.

#### (b) — Working of the Courts.

**1692.** The *Bengalee* thinks the *Calcutta Weekly Notes* has done a public service by discussing the law on the question of

Sullivan's case.

sanity as an excuse for crime. The case of the

soldier Sullivan has excited a great deal of public attention. "The verdict has been received by the Indian public with a sense of profound disappointment."

The *Bengalee* then tries to show that under section 84 of the Penal Code insanity is an excuse for crime only when it is proved that a person at the time of committing the crime "was incapable of knowing the nature of the act, or that he was doing what was contrary to law."

It quotes cases decided by the High Courts of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta in which accused persons, with far stronger claim to the defence of insanity than Sullivan had, were held guilty of murder, and says "A more extraordinary verdict (meaning the verdict in Sullivan's case) we have never come across. It is opposed to the law as laid down in the Penal Code; it is opposed to the rulings of the High Courts in India; it is opposed to the commonest considerations of justice and common sense."

**1693.** Reverting to the case in which Babu Rash Behari Mondle, a res-

pectable zamindar of Madhipura in Bhagalpur, Strange conduct of a Deputy Magistrate.

"in attempting to do his duty, almost got himself involved in a criminal case through the machinations of the police and the eccentricity or subserviency of the Subdivisional Officer" (paragraph 1534), the *Bengalee* publishes further particulars of the affair and appeals to the Commissioner of the Division to take notice of the extraordinary proceedings of the Subdivisional Officer.

**1694.** The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reproduces from the *Englishman* a letter

The Koderma shooting case. signed by "A European" complaining that he hears no more of the Koderma case, and apparently

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Patrika,  
8th June 1901.

BENGALEE,  
3rd June 1901.

BENGALEE,  
7th June 1901.

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suggesting that some steps should be taken for the prosecution of the gang who were guilty of the attack against which Mr. Whyte had to defend himself.

Commenting on this letter the *Patrika* asks, "Need a European be told what the people say regarding this case? Fancy two men shot dead and no one punished! Is such a thing possible in any other country except India?" The *Patrika* then repeats its own version of the case, laying stress on its favourite points. Mr. Whyte loaded his gun with bullets. Surely he could have protected himself with shots. The Europeans are supposed to have been attacked by fifty infuriated Sonthals armed with *lathis*, yet neither were their heads nor any of their limbs broken.

The *Patrika* sincerely trusts the authorities will make a sifting enquiry and find out the truth, for though the Jury honestly found the accused "not guilty," the verdict has not satisfied the Indian public. The Sonthals are known to be a truthful race, and, if their testimony is to be believed, the plea of right of private defence cannot be urged on behalf of Mr. Whyte.

(d).—*Education.*

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
3rd June 1901.

The prospects of higher education in Bengal.

*Hindoo Patriot* says, "The system of education that is now being imparted to our boys is open to serious objection, and times without number protests have been raised against it. But unfortunately for the country and our boys, a deaf ear was turned to them, and there is no visible sign or any indication about its consideration in the near future."

The *Patriot* agrees with the lecturer that there is a gradual decay in the intellectual growth of the nation, due to the present system of education, which is a system of cramming, and exercises the memories more than the intellects of the boys.

The writer laments the absence in the young men of the day, of any possible successors to such men as Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra, Keshub Chunder Sen, Surendra Nath Banerjea, Romesh Chunder Dutt, and attributes it to the system of education.

He also compares the time required by the Indian students to qualify for the learned professions, eight or nine years he puts it, with the time required in England and elsewhere, which is half that required in India.

(e).—*Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.*

BENGALEE,  
3rd June 1901.

1696. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Bengalee*, referring to the complaint in a local contemporary on the subject of over-assessment of municipal house-tax in Patna, reports that the assessment was made by a temporary assessor. The beauty of the whole thing, however, lies in the fact that while one brother assesses, another sits in the Appeal Committee to summarily reject the petitions of the tax-payers.

BENGALEE,  
5th June 1901.

1697. "A rate-payer" of Dacca, writing to the *Bengalee*, complains of the state of affairs in the Dacca Municipality, particularly as regards the arrangements for clearing latrines and watering the streets. Mr. Rankin's appointment as Chairman has effected no improvement. The correspondent thinks the Government which helped Mr. Rankin to interfere in the free election of a Chairman by the Municipal Commissioners, "owes an explanation to the rate-payers and the public for such an uncalled for and unnecessary interference."

BENGALEE,  
5th June 1901.

Calcutta municipal collection— suggested remedies. 1698. The *Bengalee* suggests that in lieu of the existing system of collecting rates and taxes, which is found to be very inconvenient, and affords a handle to various modes of exaction, (I) there should be at least two presentations of rate-bills, and (II) the Corporation should establish 20 ward offices in different parts of the town, as has been done in Bombay. These offices should be open from 7 to 10 A.M. and from 6 to 9-30 P.M.

1693. The *Bengalee* wishes to bring to the notice of the Chairman that Calcutta municipal collection—there is considerable suffering and hardship in the suggested remedies. city in connection with the collection of municipal rates and taxes. A large number of notices of demand are, it is said, being issued without the bills ever having been presented at all, and, what is worse, persons distributing these notices of demand, do not even wait for receiving payment.

The *Bengalee* insists upon immediate and earnest enquiries into the matter.

1694. The *Indian Mirror* regards the proposal for the division of the Municipality into four districts with an Engineer, Health Officer and Surveyor resident in each, as likely to be a great boon which will be appreciated by the people themselves. The *Mirror* would feel inclined to reduce some of the salaries, understanding that there is no desire on the part of the Chairman, or those equally responsible with him, to reserve the appointments for Europeans. The scheme is based on principles which the most determined oppositionist must approve. The amalgamation of the Conservancy and the Health Department is inevitable, for without it there is no possibility of any real work being done. The Building Department is an important one and ought to have been created earlier.

The *Mirror* concludes, "It is a radical measure which needs to be introduced with much caution and hesitancy, but it appears to us that Calcutta will lose nothing and may possibly gain much from it."

1695. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that just as Sir Alexander Mackenzie, on the ground of "divided authority," prepared his Bill to demolish Local Self-Government in Calcutta, Mr. Greer has, for the same reason, introduced his scheme for reorganising the Corporation.

Although the outlines of the scheme elaborated by the Sub-Committee are beautiful in their outward aspect, the *Patrika* finds, on examination of its details, that it has been prepared with the set purpose of excluding the children of the soil from employment under the Municipality, since Mr. Greer has clearly stated that the posts of District Engineer would be reserved exclusively for men with European qualifications.

"Now," says the writer in the *Patrika*, "we have no objection to Europeans being" put in highly placed situations if European rate-payers would pay their salaries, but we do object and protest against the money of the Indian rate-payers being wasted in providing berths for fourth-rate European Engineers; for, according to Mr. Bolton, you cannot get good European specialists for even Rs. 1,000 per mensem. This is Local Self-Government according to Sir John Woodburn, for did he not proclaim from his place in the Bengal Council that the Indians did not understand a bit of Local Self-Government and that he was going to patent out the genuine article?"

1696. The *Hindoo Patriot*, which had hopes of the improvement or modification of the reorganisation scheme at the hands of the members of the Corporation at their meeting of the 5th June, has met with a sad disappointment. The Commissioners would have acted wisely had they adopted the suggestion of Babu Sita Nath Roy for the postponement of the discussion for one month. It is also to be regretted that Babus Priyanath Mullick and Amulyadhone Addy had to sit down in disgust and despair after moving their amendments.

The *Patriot* suggests that in future when such important subjects are up for discussion, the Chairman should invite the opinion of the public.

1697. In a leading article on the adoption on the 5th June by a practically united house of the Report of the Sub-Committee on the re-organisation of the Calcutta Municipality, the *Bengalee* remarks, there was considerable hesitation on the part of some of the Indian Commissioners to adopt the scheme. Babu Sita Nath Roy opened the debate with a motion for adjournment, and it is regarded as a pity that his motion was not accepted. Little was known about the scheme and an adjournment for a month would not have interfered with its success nor jeopardized municipal Government in Calcutta, whereas it would have

BENGALEE,  
10th June 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
5th June 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
6th June 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
7th June 1901.

BENGALEE,  
10th June 1901.

enabled the press and public to discuss the matter. The success of any project of municipal reform must largely depend upon the favour of public opinion.

The *Bengalee* regards the question of the salary of the Engineers as one of some importance. "For it would be fatal to the success of the scheme, if the impression were to go forth that these appointments were purposely made highly paid so that they might become the monopoly of European Engineers. Such an impression already exists, and nothing should be left undone to remove it."

The *Bengalee* confesses to a sort of sympathy for the scheme, "for it is based on the great lines of decentralisation."

Municipal government in Calcutta is far too centralized to be successful. The city should be broken up into small areas or parishes to form the units of municipal government. The time is rapidly approaching when the municipal government of Calcutta will have to be recast on new lines.

BENGALEE,  
8th June 1901.

1698. With reference to this subject, the *Bengalee* holds that the proper thing for the Chairman to do is to lay the award contractors of the suburban drainage contracts before the Commissioners, as is done with Government Resolutions. It is not fair to withhold it, involving as it does the disbursement of lakhs of rupees, and it is all the more necessary because the document contains matter requiring the investigation of the Commissioners as to whether all the charges awarded by the arbitrator should be passed and the rate-payers forced to pay.

The writer then calls upon the European Commissioners to take up the matter, or failing the European Commissioners, he does not see why any Indian Commissioner should not move in the matter, although it is difficult for any Indian Commissioner to carry a motion under the present constitution.

"The Chairman," he remarks, "can do anything he pleases, unless some European member for the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, or the Trades Association, or any European Government official move in any matter. It is then, and then only, that the Chairman feels his position uncomfortable, and yields. Constituted as the Municipality is, it is not impossible that municipal matters should now-a-days be decided outside the meeting-room. No wonder, therefore, that the Chairman has a standing majority to back him. But let not this situation discourage any Indian Commissioner to discharge his duties fearlessly. We hope someone will make a bold stand at the meeting; and if still the award is withheld and investigation burked, it will show to what a pass the Corporation has come."

BENGALEE,  
10th June 1901.

1699. Just now, says the *Bengalee*, there is a cry from every native household in the city for more water.

Inadequate water-supply. It is a fact that lately the water-supply has fallen off, and it is whispered that this is owing to a larger supply of water being given to the ships lying in the river. The duty of ensuring a full water-supply is one which every Municipal Commissioner owes to himself and the rate-payers.

#### (g) Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

BENGALEE,  
8th June 1901.

1700. The *Bengalee* calls attention to the hardship inflicted on clerks, students and others, by the changing of the 23 up-train from Sealdah, which formerly stopped at Dum-Dum, Agarpara, Sodepore, Khardah and Titagarh stations, into a fast train, and regrets that the Traffic Superintendent should have given the curt reply he did to the largely-signed and well-reasoned memorial that was submitted to him on the subject.

BENGALEE,  
8th June 1901.

1701. The *Bengalee* wishes to draw the attention of Mr. Staples, Agent of the Bengal Central Railway, to an application submitted by the clerks in the offices of the Chief Auditor and Accountant, on the subject of rules or want of rules for the granting of leave. It is said that if a clerk, even of years' standing, is in want of leave, his services are at once dispensed with. Leave is not even granted on medical certificate. Mr. Staples is appealed to, in justice and fairness to decide the matter in favour of the clerks.

1702. Referring to the undertaking given recently by Lord George Hamilton, that he would henceforth always give preference to British firms in the matter of materials for Indian railways, unless the difference in price,

Choice of markets for materials for Indian railways.

quality and delivery is very substantial, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, while protesting that India should have the freest choice of its own markets, holds that if the Government had not neglected its duty, India, like Japan, ought to be able to supply its own needs. Notwithstanding, India should not be prohibited from selecting the cheapest market, for the sake of British workshops.

AMRITA BAZAR,  
PATRIKA,  
8th June 1901.

1703. The *Bengalee* has a long article on the danger to which Indian ladies are liable while travelling by rail, and regards it as a circumstance as damaging to the Railway Companies as it is to the Government which has the

Danger of railway travelling to Indian ladies.

BENGALEE,  
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supreme control of the railways.

It then relates an incident which occurred at the Baidyanath junction station on arrival of the night down passenger train on the 6th May, when several Bengalee gentlemen who were on the point of putting their females into an intermediate class carriage reserved for females, and in which were two respectable Bengalee ladies, were astounded to find a man, in European dress but of dark complexion, asleep on the top bunk. One of the native gentleman said "Let us wake him. He is a Parsee," whereupon the European cried, "Damn you, Parsee," and then began an altercation which ended in the European's consenting to quit the compartment if ordered to do so by the station-master. The assistant station-master was called, but the European contended that there was no label on the carriage so he had a right to occupy the compartment. The *Bengalee* hints that there may have been a label, which this intruder had himself removed.

It is suggested that some responsible Railway officials should be told off to keep watch on compartments reserved for females; that such compartments should be provided with a means of communicating with the guard; and that paper labels should not be used, but the words "Reserved for Indian Ladies," inscribed in indelible colours on the doors of compartments so intended.

The *Bengalee* thinks it was only the man's European garb that kept the European guard and assistant station-master from prosecuting him, and appeals to Lord Curzon to adopt effective measures to render railway travelling safe for Indian women.

1704. Complaints reach the *Bengalee* of mismanagement on this line, of

Ranaghat-Choorni branch line,  
Eastern Bengal State Railway.

delay in transhipment of goods, due to insufficiency or the insolence of coolies, and the huddling of female and male passengers during transhipment.

Even the Magistrate has urged the necessity of a separate boat for females. The journal suggests that either the present management ought to be greatly improved, or that it should be made over to Messrs. Martin & Co., who are the Agents of the Ranaghat-Krishnagar line.

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10th June 1901.

(h).—General.

1705. The *Hindoo Patriot* wishes to know what State reason, political

The freer employment of Europeans and Eurasians in ministerial establishments under Government.

consideration or public exigency, exists that the Government of India has been led to show so much anxious solicitude for domiciled Europeans and Eurasians. To better serve the purpose in view,

it suggests knocking clerical examination on the head and substituting an entire nomination system in its place.

If Indians are to remain hewers of wood and drawers of water, let them be told so plainly, and they will cheerfully resign themselves to their fate. What is the good of giving a thing with one hand and taking it away with the other?

As regards the breaking up of family parties or cliques, the *Patriot* urges that in the case of Hindoo clerks, the reform in this direction should be carried out most cautiously and not in an over-zealous spirit.

"Hindu relationship is quite different from that of other communities. Its traces can be found, up to the seventh generations, and kinship is observed and recognised among this wide circle of relatives. So in deciding

HINDOO PATRIOT  
31st May 1901.

family cliquism, reasonable distinction should be made and a proper line of demarcation should be drawn." In conclusion, it asks if it would be fair and just to deny an appointment to a man in an office where he happens to have a relative, if he secures it by means of a competitive examination?

INDIAN NATION,  
3rd June 1901.

The freer employment of Europeans and Eurasians in ministerial establishments under Government.

1706. The *Indian Nation*, reproducing from the *Hitabadi* the confidential letter of the 26th April, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, asks, "Why should any system

facilitate the employment of any class? To provide facilities for any particular class is to be unfair to all other classes. Fairness demands that all classes should have equal access, or access on equal terms, to appointments." The *Indian Nation* does not regard it as a public evil that Europeans and Eurasians cannot accept appointments on Rs. 20 a month. It asks if it is not true that, because Eurasians do not think it worthwhile to accept appointments on Rs. 20 they have been put into higher offices which natives of their qualifications would never have obtained. It asks, which is the greater evil or injury to a class—exclusion from appointments on Rs. 20 a month, or exclusion from the higher appointments?

As regards families, parties and cliques, the *Nation* thinks that if an honest crusade were commenced against this evil, Europeans and Eurasians would suffer at least as heavily as natives.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
2nd June 1901.

1707. Referring to the Punjab Government's modified plague regulations, *Power and Guardian* expresses the opinion that if Plague administration and these new orders had been promulgated from the beginning, there would have been no complaints,

no dissatisfaction, no disaffection and no disturbances to mar the harmony and beauty of plague administration. Hence, it says, the view is held that the misguided people who are now under trial for the disturbances that resulted from the want of foresight of those responsible for the plague administration, are morally not guilty of any offence whatever, and it is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab will not countenance any feeling of revenge which might actuate his subordinates in dealing with the people.

INDIAN NATION.  
3rd June 1901.

Proposed abolition of the Bankura district.

1708. With reference to the proposed abolition of the Bankura district against which a petition signed by over 5,000 men has been presented to the District Magistrate for submission to the Lieutenant-Governor, the *Indian Nation* says, "The proposal is a revolutionary one, and all such proposals require to be considered with great caution. However ethical philosophers may differ, the greatest good of the greatest number is the best working rule wherever there is a conflict of interests. The interests of the bulk of the population must in the present case be taken as superior to those of a small community. Districts have been constituted and defined in view of sanitation, agriculture, trade, maintenance of order, administration of justice, the language and habits of the population and the like, and they are not to be reconstituted with an eye merely to the commercial interests of a particular class."

BENGALEE,  
7th June 1901.

1709. The *Bengalee* says "Bengal is more or less in a state of excitement with regard to the disfranchisement of the Bhagalpur Division; and now the proposed dismemberment of the Bankura district serves to add to the intensity of the popular feeling."

This journal considers the break up of a district is a serious matter and should never be undertaken unless there are the strongest administrative reasons in favour of it. In the case of Bankura it is not admitted that there are any such reasons and the sentiment of the people, which is strongly against it, ought to be considered by the authorities.

The *Bengalee* submits the following alternative proposal for the consideration of Government:—"Coal mines have been discovered and are being worked in places covering three subdivisions of Ranigunge, Gobindpur and Giridih. If the Government is anxious to establish a mining district, these three subdivisions, together with the subdivisions of Deogarh and Jamtara,

might be formed into one district, with Assensole or Madhupur as the headquarters of the new district. The integrity of Bankura would thus be preserved, and the convenience of the mercantile community and the owners of coal mines would be secured."

1710. Referring to the expulsion from the Dinapur Cantonment limits of the man Bidura, the Bankipur correspondent of the *Bengalee* says that the action of the authorities has taken all by surprise, for the expelled man comes of a very good family that has been living in the Dinapur Cantonment for the last three or four generations. It behoves the Local Government to enquire why these cases are cropping up in such rapid succession. Both Bidura and Bisumal hitherto considered peaceful citizens all on a sudden acquired such a notorious character as to make their removal from the cantonment limits a sheer necessity. There is mystery hanging over both these cases, and later on the writer will show how section 210 of the Cantonment Act can at any moment be converted into an engine of oppression.

BENGALEE,  
3rd June 1901.

1711. Referring to the demand made on District Boards to meet plague expenditure, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the Government, when imposing the Road Cess Fund, gave solemn pledges (which have been repeatedly broken) that the cess would not be spent for any purpose that did not concern the villagers immediately, directly and palpably.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
3rd June 1901.

Now plague, says the *Patrika*, is an imperial disease, and it is the Imperial exchequer, not the Cess Fund, which should meet its cost. Hitherto the people have made no formal protest against the unjustifiable way the cess money has been spent. The result is that the Government has forgotten all about its previous promises and declarations, and has honestly come to believe that it can do whatever it like with the money of the cess-payers. The cess-payers should lose no time in inaugurating a systematic and sustained agitation and in one voice asking the Government to do its duties in this connection.

1712. The following appears in the letter of the Dinajpur correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* :—

INDIAN MIRROR,  
7th June 1901.

Exclusion of the public from Court offices. The new Government circular, forbidding the public to enter the offices of the Court, has become a great nuisance. Even the pleaders are not allowed to enter into the office rooms though they have urgent business. The Judge's sheristadar always insults respectable men, if they unfortunately stand in the verandah of the Judge's court. We know Mr. Richardson is a very kind-hearted gentleman; he will certainly put a stop to the high-handedness of his sheristadar Babu.

BENGALEE,  
7th June 1901.

1713. Referring to the confidential letter of the Hon'ble Mr. Slacke to the Government of India, recently published in Eurasians in the Board of Revenue. the *Hitavadi* and reproduced in several other papers (*vide* paragraph 1678), the *Bengalee* says that Mr. Slacke's statement made therein (viz., that under the existing system sufficient scope is not afforded for the introduction of domiciled Europeans and Eurasians into certain offices, amongst which is the Board of Revenue, and that though there is provision for the appointment of outsiders.....) it has remained inoperative in the case of Europeans and Eurasians by means of the smallness of the starting salary which is only Rs. 20 a month) is very far from accurate and positively misleading. Of three outsiders appointed in the Board of Revenue office during the last four years, two are Eurasians, the initial salary has been Rs. 40 to Rs. 60, and in one instance that of an Eurasian of very poor educational qualifications, who is said to be closely related to the Superintendent, the initial salary was Rs. 50 rising to Rs. 75. During the past three years this last mentioned candidate has received no fewer than four promotions superseding scores of his seniors. Should Mr. Slacke think that the existing system does not offer ample scope for the introduction of Eurasians into the Board's office, the *Bengalee* would suggest that the words—"No natives need apply" should be inscribed on the gate.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
7th June 1901.

1714. The *Hindoo Patriot* believes there are many districts in Bengal and Behar, which have made sufficient educational progress to justify them in a demand for the privilege of Jury trial. In Behar the disqualified districts are more than in Bengal, and in such districts as Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, and Gaya delay in granting the privilege seems "inadmissible."

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
7th June 1901.

1715. Quoting from the paper recently read by Mr. J. D. Rees on "Famine facts and fallacies," passages to show that the home charges are too high and should be reduced to the lowest possible amount; that there should be a reduction in the European agency and a considerable extension of the employment of natives in high posts, especially in the Judicial services, and, lastly, that much money is wasted upon unlovely and unnecessary buildings, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes the following comments:—

The other day we ventured to observe that, if we had the power, we would have held all the Government offices in huts and saved money to feed people and keep them alive. Fancy the huge sums spent every year upon "unlovely and unnecessary buildings" and other works of the Public Works Department. And what a large sum is spent annually upon these "unlovely and unnecessary" village chaukidars!

Turning to Mr. Rees' remedial suggestions for the apportionment of military expenditure between India and England and the creation of new industries, the writer compliments Mr. Rees on his departure from the usual rule of Anglo-Indian officials in noticing this drain question in his discussion on the causes of Indian famines, and remarks: "If India were allowed to keep the 30 millions a year which she has to pay to a foreign country in the shape of salaries, pensions, annuities, &c., for which she gets no return, the famine would disappear from the land and the country would grow rich and prosperous."

"Let the Government keep to itself the control of imperial matters, but let the administration of local affairs be made over to the children of the soil. This is what the rulers should do without delay. They have taken an impossible task in hand of ruling three hundred millions of intelligent aliens on enlightened principles by importing a few hundred officials from a foreign country."

As regards the industries, it is pointed out Mr. Rees makes a blunder. It is not development of new industries that India wants so much as the protection of those she has or had. From time immemorial India had held the foremost place on account of its industrial supremacy. There was a time when chintzes, shawls, muslins, handkerchiefs were exported to England and Europe from India. But the exportation was stopped by legislation.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
8th June 1901.

1716. The following is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 8th June:—

Months in *hajat* on worthless evidence.

The Penal Code prescribes imprisonment for the offence of illegally detaining a man in confinement even for an hour. But is there any remedy if innocent persons are kept in *hajat* for months together at the sweet pleasure of the Police officials or their executive head? Three Maravars were charged the other day before Mr. T. H. Hamnett, Additional Sessions Judge, Tinnevelly, with complicity in the Sivakasi riot, which occurred in 1899. The Judge acquitted the accused. The judgment concludes as follows:—

It is to be hoped that, if there are other persons implicated in this offence, on evidence of the same worthless character as that against the accused in the case, the charges against them will be withdrawn, or that they will be discharged or committed for trial with less delay than has occurred in this case.

So, according to the Sessions Judge the prosecution evidence was "worthless." Yet one of the two accused had been rotting in *hajat* for eight months and the other for six months.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
8th June 1901.

1717. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a long letter from a correspondent signing himself "The Black Knight" (who, according to the *Patrika*, is a retired member of the Indian Civil Service), on the subject of Chapra and Noakhali cases,

the alleged ill-treatment of Mr. Pennell by the authorities, and the administration of Indian affairs in general.

The writer considers that a calmer-minded Judge, who would have stuck to the points connected with the cases, and refrained from abusing his judicial office by the use of intemperate language, could have done incalculable good to the cause of India. The writer goes on to deal with the subject of the selection of High Court Judges and the supersession of able men. He considers the District Judges should be in all matters subordinate to the High Court. He regards as unsound and erroneous the idea of the Government, that any officer who can pass a certain examination is fit for judicial duties, and considers that summary powers are too liberally conferred. The police is of course described as notoriously corrupt and rotten, and it is suggested that Judicial officers should be encouraged to comment more freely on what they consider the shortcomings in police investigations. The writer promises to return to the discussion shortly.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

1718. The following telegram appears in the *Bengalee* :—

*Tangail, 2nd June*.—Kumar Manmatha Nath Roy Supreme Council election. Chowdhury convened a public meeting yesterday

BENGALEE,  
3rd June 1901.

to express a hope that the rumour, regarding the nomination of both the Maharaja of Darbhanga and the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee to the Supreme Legislative Council, may be confirmed by His Excellency. The Kumar in a brilliant speech characterised by his persuasive eloquence dilated upon the many brilliant qualities of the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee and said that he was entitled to the honour for the sacrifice he has made for his country. He praised Lord Curzon for recognising the voice of the people. His Excellency has arrived at a decision which has satisfied both the aristocracy and the commoners and which therefore is an unmistakable index of His Excellency's statesmanlike virtues which have made him so popular. The Kumar further said that the Maharaja of Darbhanga was the fittest man to represent the landholders, but he remarked that India shall ever remain as fallen as she is now if the aristocrats and the commoners are not united by a common tie of citizenship.

### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1719. The following telegram appears in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* :—

*Mymensingh, 2nd June*.—“The people of Mymensingh, 2nd June.—“The people of Mymensingh assembled at a public meeting held this evening at the Surjakanta hall under the presidency of Babu Kalisankar Guha, resolved that an influential deputation should wait upon Maharaja Surjakanta Acharja Chowdhry with prayer to found Victoria scholarship with his promised donation of Rs. 50,000 to perpetuate the memory of Her late Gracious Majesty to enable Indian students to prosecute technical studies in foreign countries, preference being given to Mymensingh candidates. The Maharaja was heartily thanked for his munificent donation and great enthusiasm prevailed.”

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
4th June 1901.

1720. “In India,” says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, “plague not only killed men, but it did more. It filled our jails with convicts, it separated wives from husbands, young babies from their mothers . . . Even now

AMRITA BAZAR.  
PATRIKA,  
4th June 1901.

we see that the military are now and then let loose upon innocent villagers, driven to lawlessness by frenzy, occasioned not so much by the disease as by the rules enforced to stamp it out.”

The *Patrika* then refers to the outbreak of plague in San Francisco, where the people have refused to allow any plague regulations to be enforced, and wonders if the Imperial (*sic*) Government at Washington will use force to compel them to do so.

The article concludes “How easy it is to govern India with its human sheep.”

BENGALEE,  
5th June 1901.

1721. Under this heading, an Englishman, hiding his identity under the *nom-de-plume* of "West," writes a lengthy article in the *Bengalee* to show that British rule in India

Rulers and ruled.  
is theoretically just, but unfair in practice. He inveighs against the importation of officers who form an exclusive class and hardly ever enter into close relations with the ruled; who draw large salaries in India and spend them in Europe; who, in a word, have little sympathy and mostly contempt for the loyal races of India. He is consequently not surprised when such cases as those of Chapra and Noakhali arise, nor does he expect aught but injustice to result when power is the offspring of the unholy union between Executive and Judicial functions, and when it is exercised, for want of experience, through corrupt agencies. We display, says the writer, a most praiseworthy desire to be not only fair, but favourable to India, when it comes to the purchase of a ream of paper or a yard of tape, for there our policy is one of strict exclusion of the imported article. But the policy changes when we deal with persons, and not with things.

This race-exclusion carried to such an extent, cannot, in the opinion of the writer, fail to breed race-animosity, while it silences the cant which pretends that the British govern India for the good of India, and that their mission here is 'divinely' appointed in the interests of India. The prejudice and hatred which caused the revolt of 1857, were no more than the extreme reaches of the perfectly natural instinct of self-preservation. That instinct still lives and the struggle must go on, but the sword will no more take part in it. It is thus that we are too apt to mistake the pen of the agitator for the point of the hidden sword of treason, and to trace in the utterances of the Congressman and the journalist the veiled plottings of sedition and revolt. When we can appraise at its proper worth this struggle, which often unfairly merits for the natives a doubt of their loyalty and good intention, we will understand the task before us, and our understanding will help towards improving the condition of India better than enactments that gag the press or put editors in irons, can ever hope to do. When European and native can meet on common ground in the laudable campaign against abuses, which no one will deny are innumerable, the bond between rulers and ruled will not tighten unpleasantly on either, and rulers and ruled will then be brought closer together.

BENGALEE.  
6th June 1901.

1722. The *Bengalee* understands that Sir Francis Maclean, the Chief Justice of Bengal, is shortly proceeding home on privilege leave. It is rumoured that His Lordship

The Chief Justice's movements.  
is going to represent the Government of India in the Judicial enquiry which will shortly be held there in connection with Mr. Pennell's case.

BENGALEE.  
6th June 1901.

1723. Quoting figures to show the incomes of the various missionary societies, the *Bengalee* remarks, "If only a portion of this money came to this country in furtherance of some philanthropic object, how much it could benefit the teeming millions of India, the bulk of whom have to live on a single meal a day."

The dangers and delusions of Foreign missions.  
The writer then quotes the words of Mr. W. S. Caine, M.P., that the missionary failure in India has been "complete and unmistakeable," and endeavours to show that while the aggregate number of converts is few (35,000 converts to 3,424 missionary agents), the quality of the converts is even a greater source of disappointment.

The present troubles in China are the joint work of missionaries and their converts.

In Africa, according to Sir H. H. Johnstone, the state of things is worse than in India, for he describes the Christian converts there as more given to adultery, drunkenness and lying than their heathen brethren.

The article concludes, Those pious and charitable people, who allow themselves to be swayed by the shrieking brotherhood and the hysterical sisterhood of Exeter Hall, may well pause as they unloose their purse-strings, and reflect whether the money, spent on foreign missions, may not be devoted to some more useful and worthy purpose than that of manufacturing, at such a tremendous cost, converts of the type depicted above—men whose besetting sins are "adultery, drunkenness and lying."

1724. Quoting the words of Sir Edward Clark, that "The shameless exhibition of immorality nightly to be seen in Immorality in London and London, would not be seen in any Continental city, even Paris," the *Bengalee* says "Such being the case, would not the missionary organisations in England be better employed in reforming people nearer at home, than in propagating the light of the Gospel in 'heathen-land'?"

BENGALEE,  
7th June 1901.

1725. The following letter appears in the *Indian Mirror* of the 7th Preaching in Beadon Square. June:—

INDIAN MIRROR,  
7th June 1901.

[To THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MIRROR."]

SIR,—An unprecedented spectacle occurred in the Beadon Square, on the evening of Sunday, the 26th of May. Protestant Missionaries preach in this garden every Sunday evening. One evening they came, and a Punjabi came too to preach against Christianity. This gentleman, however, was prevented from speaking by some police constables. I know that certain strictures, passed by the Hindus on Christianity, had wounded the Missionaries very deeply. But in justice to the Hindus, I must say, that if the Christians, and none but the Christians, are allowed to preach on Sundays, a day in the week should be fixed on which the Hindus might preach too. I deeply regret that I found in the conduct of some school and college boys by whom mostly the park was crowded, what was very unbecoming. They went so far as to surround a Rev. Missionary, and abuse him.

Yours, &c.,  
H. L. B.

The 29th May 1901.

How Tika lost his life. 1726. The following is a *verbatim* paragraph in the *Bengalee*:—

BENGALEE,  
7th June 1901.

Bombardier Young saw three natives passing before him. The sight at once appealed to his martial instinct. He took his gun and fired upon the party, killing one of them and wounding another. He was tried by a court-martial and found not guilty, and was accordingly discharged. His defence was that the natives were armed with *lathis* which they brandished to frighten him; and as a battery cart had been robbed on the march, he inferred that the natives meant mischief and so punished them promptly on the spot. The Magistrate, however, was not satisfied with the finding of the court-martial, and held an enquiry. Writes the Lahore paper:—

It was found that three villagers—Tika, Lila and Chimta—were going to see a performance. They went along a *pucca* road to some distance when they turned on a track, evidently to cut the way short, but had not proceeded quite 30 yards when they were shouted at from the *pucca* road in a language which was unintelligible to them. They were frightened. Immediately they caught sight of a British soldier, armed with a gun, following them. The reputation of British soldiers is so great in Indian villages that people are only too glad to keep at a prudent distance from them, especially if they are armed with gun; the latter having acquired the habit of going off of their own accord on certain occasions. The three villagers finding themselves followed by a British soldier, armed with a gun, at once took to their heels. This increased the enthusiasm of our gallant hero; and an exciting chase followed. When the villagers had run for about half a mile, they were fired upon and Tika and another man was wounded. Tika's wound has since proved fatal. It is said that the District Magistrate believes the story told by Tika and the other villagers as true, and has ordered the trial of Bombardier Young by a Judicial Court.

Bombardier Young was perhaps practising sniping, like some of his comrades in South Africa.

1727. The *Bengalee*, while sharing in the general admiration of the Boer laws for Indians. valour and independence of the Boers, says, "We Indians cannot forget the intensely anti-Indian traditions of their Government and their race. Christianity, which teaches the equality of mankind, teaches the Boer that the Indian is not his equal, and

BENGALEE,  
8th June 1901.

with the semi-savage instinct of a mediæval community, he enacted laws in relation to the Indians, which are at once barbarous and oppressive."

BENGALEE,  
10th June 1901.

1728- The collector of subscriptions, says the *Bengalee*, has to perform a thankless task, and when his visits become too frequent, people are known to resort to very desperate dodges to avoid encountering him. However when the collector is a man of wealth and position, the public hasten to unloose their purse-strings, and for securing a quick and spontaneous response, the best collector is a high place Government official.

"The movement associated with the name of the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, owes its success solely to its having been inaugurated under the auspices of the highest official dignitaries in the country. Lord Curzon's Victoria Hall Movement is perhaps the most glaring illustration of this rule."

It were idle to deny that the methods, employed in raising subscriptions for this Fund, are not wholly unobjectionable. If the *Pioneer* and *Civil and Military Gazette* are correct, it would be a misnomer to call the subscriptions voluntary.

The *Bengalee* then produces the Resolution on the subject of official connection with public movements, published six years ago, and concludes as follows:—

"In the case of the Victoria Memorial the collection of subscriptions by Government officials has, no doubt, been sanctioned by Government; but we should like to know how the Divisional Commissioners can have possibly satisfied themselves that the payments are "purely voluntary and not enforced by official pressure." We have been amongst the first to support the Viceroy's scheme. But that is no reason why we should shut our eyes to methods of collection which almost take away the voluntary character of the subscriptions. Official agency may be economical and convenient; but its employment is open to the grave objection that it introduces an element of compulsion which cannot be too carefully guarded against."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P., }  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS, }  
The 8th June 1901.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.